REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough search with respect to the present patent application. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 cited in the previous Office Action has been withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2 and 19 have been amended to more particularly define applicants' invention. Applicants believe the amendments to these claims make explicit that which was already implicit, and accordingly, are not made for purposes related to patentability.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudt (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,456) in view of Katz (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,081). The Examiner asserts that the combination of Rudt and Katz shows all of the elements of these claims, including the independent claims. The Examiner explicitly states that Rudt does not disclose displaying a selection area on the operator's computer screen that represents images in a sequence of images. However, the Examiner asserts Katz teaches the use of a user interface that comprises a selection area that represents images in a sequence of images. Therefore, the Examiner concludes it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the teachings of Rudt and Katz as a whole for implementing applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Independent claims 1 and 2, as amended, define a method for "synchronizing image data obtained from a plurality of cameras." Each of the cameras is placed in a position to take a respective image and images are taken "using at least some of the cameras." Image data $2d_1$ - $2d_n$ from the images are stored in digital image processors, and "at least some of the images corresponding to the image data" are selected for display analysis on a computer screen. Independent claims 1 and 2 further define a selection area 8 that corresponds to fewer than all images from one of the plurality of cameras that is displayed on the computer screen. The selection area 8 corresponds to a point of synchronization corresponding to the stored image data.

Applicant respectfully submits that Rudt is directed to image synchronization in order to identify and display image "clips" (camera views) from a plurality of camera positions. Rudt does not teach or suggest displaying a selection area on a computer screen that corresponds to fewer than all images from one of the plurality of cameras. Katz teaches use of a plurality of

cameras, and a selection of a desired camera view while simultaneously displaying views from related cameras (see column 4, lines 49-67). Applicants respectfully submit that the selection of a single camera view and automatic display of related camera views provided by Katz is distinct from the selection area 8 defined in applicants' claims 1 and 2. The selection of a single camera view taught by Katz displays a continuous video signal that comprises *all* of the images taken at the time by the respective camera. Applicants' claimed selection area represents fewer than all images of a single camera. Furthermore, the related camera views provided by Katz simultaneously display all images taken by the respective cameras at the same point in time. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the selection area of Katz does not represent images from <u>one</u> of a plurality of cameras that includes fewer than all images in a point of synchronization corresponding to stored image data. Instead, Katz teaches providing views from an entire plurality of cameras that are related to a single camera view that is selected by an operator.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Katz does not supply the elements of independent claims 1 and 2 that are missing from the teachings of Rudt. Even assuming, *arguendo*, that one were to combine the teachings of Rudt and Katz, applicants' claims 1 and 2 are not taught because the resulting selection area would represent the continuous image clips of Rudt and a plurality of clips from related cameras that are simultaneously displayed. Applicants maintain that the combined teachings of Rudt and Katz do not teach or suggest a selection area corresponding to fewer than all images from one of a plurality of cameras.

Independent claim 19 is patentable over the combined teachings of Rudt and Katz for the same reasons. A selection area 8 representing images in a sequence of images from one of a plurality of cameras is not taught or suggested by the combined teachings of Rudt and Katz.
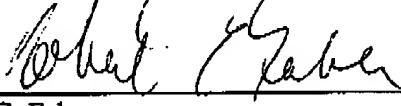
Claims 3-18 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 or claim 2, and, therefore, are patentable for the same reasons as well as because of the combination of features set forth in those claims with the claim(s) from which they depend.

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This application is believed to be in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly
solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark
Office, on December 10, 2003:

Respectfully submitted,

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